

1. **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

2. First photoelectric transducer rows (51, 53,
3. 55) and second photoelectric transducer rows (52,
4. 54, 56) are arranged such that respective image
5. pickup elements are aligned with each other in the
6. primary scanning section. By pixel data read by
7. the first photoelectric transducer rows (51, 53,
8. 55) and pixel data read by the second photoelectric
9. transducer rows (52, 54, 56), pixel data pertaining
10. to two pixels located at the same position on each
11. line with reference to a primary scanning direction
12. are averaged or added together. As a result,
13. resolution of pixels is improved, and noise
14. components of the pixels are diminished. Thus, a
15. signal-to-noise ratio can be improved.